REMARKS

Claims 28-41 are pending in the present application. The Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph. Claims 28-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a). Claims 31 and 34-41 are deleted by this amendment. Claims 42-56 are added.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. The Examiner notes in particular that the dependency of this claim is to a cancelled claim. Claim 29 has been amended to now depend from Claim 28. As such, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 28-41 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,161,128 (Smyk) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,449 (Nadeau) and U.S. Patent No. 6, 021,126 (White et al.). As noted above claims 31 and 34-41 are deleted by this amendment. In light of the amendments to the claims and the arguments made below the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Applicant's invention in the claims as amended is a system and method whereby a system user may forward communications received at any of a plurality of destination addresses to an assigned routing address. Further, the destination addresses may be identified through a signal interface accessible over the Internet. Still further, through another interface routing instruction may be provided for routing a call received at any of the destination addresses.

Smyk discloses an Internet based control channel which connects a subscriber to a service provider. As part of the system, a system user may access a web page where call forwarding for a telephone number may be established.

Nadeau discloses a method and system for managing communication sessions originating from either one of the telecommunications network, such as the PSTN or a mobile telephone network, and a data communications network such as the Internet. A service logic controller may be implemented on a network server and may be configured to store routing information for telephone number of other parties provided by the subscriber. This information may be time or date related and be associated with one or more telephone numbers. A user dials an access number into the system and then provides the system additional identifying information for the party (such as speaking a name or a directory number). The profile is then accessed and a connection made.

White et al. discloses a telecommunications system in which an Internet database is employable for accessing and providing telephone information for detected incoming calls. When a call is detected, the database is accessed and it returns call set up directions which are used by the origination switch system to establish a voice link from the calling station to the station having the ported number.

The Applicant's invention is non-obvious in light of the cited references, either alone or in combination, because none of them teach or suggest a system and method whereby a system user may provide routing instructions for all of their destination addresses. As is known, a lot of people these days have multiple communications device with which they can be reached, including a landline phone, cellular phone, pager, IP phone. According to the Applicant's invention, when an incoming call is received at any of the lines of communications (destination addresses), the SCP may contact a single place, the Internet database, and be provided the routing instructions which in turn were provided by the subscriber. The advantage of this is that

there is basically a single record for forwarding calls received at a number of different destination addresses.

In Smyk, although there are teachings as to the use of an interface in order to provide forwarding information for a line of communication, nowhere is it taught that a system user may employ a single location in order to program and provide routing instructions for their various destination addresses. As can be seen in the various interactive screen displays disclosed in Figs. 4A-C of Smyk, these screen displays only provide for the routing instructions for a single telephone number. Nowhere is it shown that in a single location a single routing instruction may be used for multiple destination addresses.

With regards to Nadeau, as was previously discussed, this reference does not teach the storage of routing information in a database located in a network server. Further, Nadeau does not teach the type of interfaces that are disclosed in the Applicant's invention for identifying destination addresses and providing routing instructions. Further Nadeau does not teach or suggest the type of incoming telephone call detection in order to access and identify a profile.

As with Smyk, Nadeau merely teaches controlling forwarding for one destination address at a time. Nowhere is it taught in this reference that at a single location, multiple destination addresses may be programmed for using a single routing instruction. As was the case with Smyk, a system user must provide individual routing instructions for each destination address each time. Because the combination of Smyk and Nadeau does not teach or suggest the ability to control the forwarding of multiple destination addresses with a single routing instruction, the Applicant's invention is non-obvious in light of any combination of three references.

With regards to White et al., this reference merely teaches that a network database may be accessed in order to provide routing instructions for a detected call at a network switch. As with the
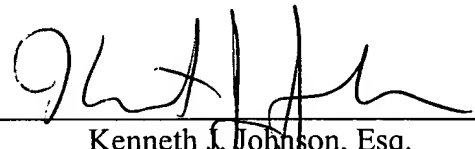
other references, White et al. does not teach or suggest the ability to provide routing instructions for a plurality of destination addresses at a single location, and the functionality to then apply those routing instructions to any detected calls received at the plurality of destination addresses. As such, in light of the amendments to the claims and the arguments made above, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

For further review the applicant has also added claims 42-56.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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